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16 October 2020

To the members of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy

Synopsis of the meeting held by videoconference on 15 October 2020

The **Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy**, meeting by videoconference on 15 October 2020, with Dame Cheryl Gillan (United Kingdom, EC/DA) in the Chair:

- **Call for candidates:** called for candidates for the reports on *Safeguarding peace and stability in the East Mediterranean Sea* and on *The impact of Brexit on human rights on the island of Ireland*;
- **Transparency and regulation of donations to political parties and electoral campaigns from foreign donors** (*Rapporteur: Mr Konstantin Kuhle, Germany, ALDE*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Yves-Marie Doublet, Deputy Director at the French National Assembly, expert to the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO); Mr Nicolae Eșanu (Republic of Moldova), Substitute member of the Venice Commission, Legal Advisor to the Prime Minister; and Mr Fernando Casal Bértoa, Associate Professor at the University of Nottingham and member of the OSCE/ODIHR Core Group of Political Party Experts, and took note that the Rapporteur would organise further hearings and bilateral meetings at a later stage;
- **More participatory democracy to tackle climate change** (*Rapporteur: Mr George Papandreou, Greece, SOC*): held an exchange of views with the participation of Mr Thierry Pech, co-Chair of the Citizens' Convention on Climate, France;
- **Open discussion on current issues:**
 - . The situation in Kyrgyzstan following the parliamentary elections on 4 October 2020: took note of the statement issued by the Chairperson on 6 October, and that she would initiate a motion on this subject;
 - . Recent developments in Varosha (Famagusta), Cyprus: held an exchange of views and took note that the Chairperson would issue a statement on this subject;
 - . Military hostilities along the Line of Contact in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone: held a brief exchange of views to be continued at its next meeting;
- **Future work:**
 - . Ten years after the Lisbon Treaty: strengthening Council of Europe and European Union co-operation (*Rapporteur: Mr Titus Corlățean, Romania, SOC*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur and took note that a hearing would be organised on 9 December, with the participation of Council of Europe and European Union representatives;
 - . Participation in the hearing organised by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on Updating and relaunching the Charter of European Political Parties for a Non-Racist Society on 27 November 2020: took note that the hearing will be open to the participation of Committee members, as proposed by the Chairpersons of both Committees;
 - . Strengthening the role of the Council of Europe as a cornerstone of the European political architecture (*Rapporteur: Ms Rósa Björk Brynjólfsdóttir, Iceland, UEL*): authorised the Rapporteur to carry out fact-finding visits to France (Paris and Strasbourg), subject to the availability of funds and sanitary conditions;

- **Next meetings:** in the absence of any urgent business, agreed not to confirm the meeting provisionally scheduled for 2 November 2020;
 - 27 November 2020, participation in the Hearing organised via videoconference by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination on *Updating and relaunching the Charter of European Political Parties for a Non-Racist Society*;
 - 9 December 2020, place to be confirmed

D. Chatzivassiliou, P. Chevtchenko, S. Arzilli, A. Elveris

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe